

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims supercedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of producing a pneumatic tire comprising a belt comprised of at least two belt layers each constituted with steel cords and a coating rubber covering the cord between a tread and a radial carcass by spirally winding a band-shaped uncured rubber composition extruded through an extruder on a rotating support to form a rubber member having a given sectional shape (so-called core shaping), characterized in that the formation of the belt layer is carried out by ① successively laminating the coating rubber and the steel cords, ② affixing a small-width band-shaped body of single or plural steel cords previously covered with the coating rubber or ③ forming a small-width band-shaped body by covering a single or plural steel cords with the coating rubber during the shaping and affixing it, and a rubber composition constituting the coating rubber is formed by compounding a rubber component with a compound having a melting point of 120-220°C and/or a resin having a softening point prior to curing of 90-150°C, and a total compounding amount of the compound and the resin is 0.5-25 parts by mass based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

2. (Original) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the rubber composition has a viscosity of not more than 2 kPa·s as measured at a shearing rate of 750 s⁻¹ and a temperature of 100°C according to ASTM D5099-93, and a tensile stress at 100% elongation of not less than 5 MPa and an elongation at break of not less than 200% as rubber properties after the vulcanization.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the resin is a thermosetting resin.

4. (Original) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein the resin is at least one kind of bismaleimide-based resin.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the compound is at least one bismaleimide.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the rubber composition further contains 0.5-2.0 parts by mass of N,N'-dicyclohexyl-2-benzothiazolyl ~~sulfenamide~~ sulfonamide based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the rubber composition further contains 0.02-0.4 part by mass of a cobalt compound as a total content of a cobalt element based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the rubber composition contains 4.0-8.0 parts by mass of sulfur as a vulcanizing agent based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

Please add the following new claims:

9. (New) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 2, wherein the resin is a thermosetting resin.

10. (New) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 2, wherein the compound is at least one bismaleimide.

11. (New) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 2, wherein the rubber composition further contains 0.5-2.0 parts by mass of N,N'-dicyclohexyl-2-benzothiazolyl sulfonamide based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

12. (New) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 2, wherein the rubber composition further contains 0.02-0.4 part by mass of a cobalt compound as a total content of a cobalt element based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

13. (New) A method of producing a pneumatic tire according to claim 2, wherein the rubber composition contains 4.0-8.0 parts by mass of sulfur as a vulcanizing agent based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.